

## Kia ora OVSwhānau

Kia ora whānau, and welcome to this week's newsletter update. Our recent OVS Got Talent quest truly electrified our community. Thank you all for coming to cheer on our tamariki.

### Navigating Recent Education Changes

You might have noticed recent education headlines in the media. The Budget 2026 Education Overview outlines upcoming structural changes for schools. Additionally, the Ministry of Education Portal recently updated national curriculum timelines.

Amongst all the changes I want to take the time to reassure you about our steady approach:

- Extended deadlines: We are taking the time through the recent Government curriculum extensions to give our school strategic planning and implementation time.
- Core focus: Our school improvement priorities remain the same - Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Attendance.
- No rushing: We are phasing the changes in smoothly with a particular emphasis on minimising classroom disruptions.
- Staff training and professional development: OVS teachers are well ahead of the curve and have already been accessing significant targeted professional development in the key curriculum areas.

While 2027 will undoubtedly see inevitable change, throughout the remainder of 2026 we will keep our school stable, focused, and positive.

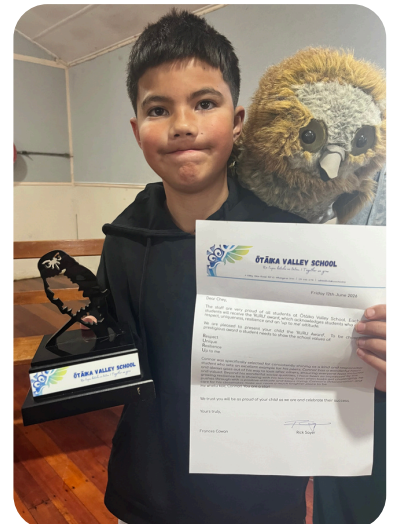
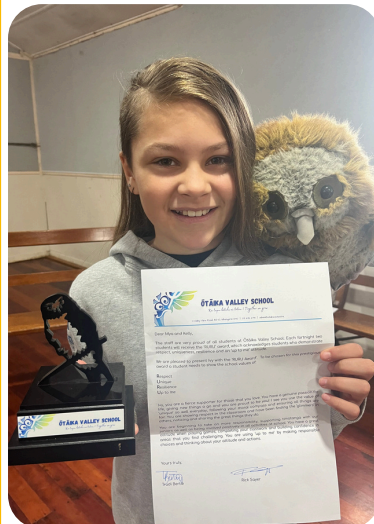
As always -thank you for your incredible, ongoing partnership with our Kura

Ngā mihi nui,  
Rick Sayer  
Tumuaki/Principal

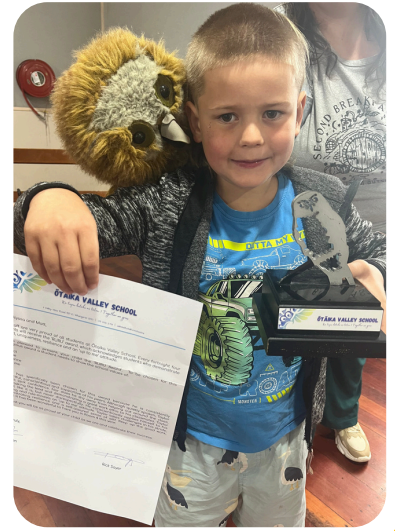
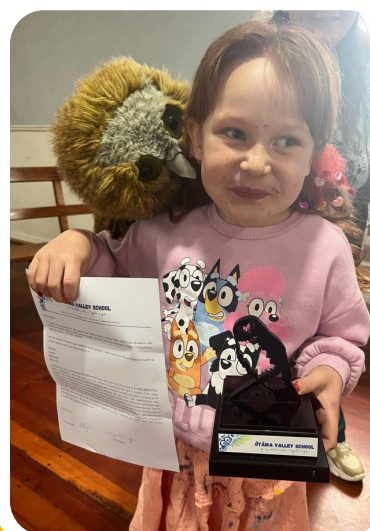
## R.U.R.U AWARDS

Every fortnight at assembly we celebrate our super OVS students, and this week's 'shout out' is to say a huge congratulations to our R.U.R.U award winners over the last 2 weeks .

### Senior RURU: Ivy and Connor



### Junior RURU: Kiannah & Taylor



If you need any help feel free to contact us.



admin@otaika.school.nz



09 432 2731



## **Ruru RockStar!** **Class Attendance Award**

Each fortnight at assembly we are acknowledging the class with the best attendance for the week...and they win the 'Ruru Rockstar' Award.

The last 2 weeks' winner with 94% attendance s (drum roll please...)



### **Attendance**

Sadly our attendance has dropped off this term with the last 2 weeks only achieving **66%** regular attendance. Come on OVS we can do better than this.

A big shout out though to Room 2 who is winning the terms 'class attendance' with only 3 weeks to go. The winning class with the best attendance for the term gets a Pop-corn and Movie afternoon with Mr Sayer!

## **OVS Kapa Haka Fest**

**Wed 17 June**

Next Wednesday is our 2<sup>nd</sup> OVS Kapa Haka Festival. We are hosting Portland and Waioira School and looking forward to a great day. We will be holding a school practice next Tuesday at 9:00 am, so if whanau cant make the Wednesday performance then you are warmly invited to watch the practice.

Our wonderful PTA will be providing a sausage sizzle and Coffee cart on the day and you can find the 'approximate' timings for the day below.

### **Timetable for the day**

- 9:15 - 9.45 Assemble /Gather
- 9.45-10:00 Mihi Whakatau -Official opening
- 10:00 - 10:15 Break for Roopu preparation
- 10.15-10:35 Portland School Te Kura o Tikorangi
- 10. 40 - 11:00 Waioira Primary
- 11:05 - 11.25 Ōtaika Valley School
- 11:30 - 12:10 First break - students play and interact
- 12:15 - 12:25 Whakamutunga presentations, karakia whakamutunga
- 12:30 finish.

## **Mountains to the Sea**

Over the past couple of weeks, all of our students have taken part in a variety of events facilitated by Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust.

Rooms 1-4 went on a nature walk, identifying a range of native and pest species of plants and trees. Rooms 5-6 headed up to the Ōtaika Stream (near the walkway) to conduct a stream health check and meet lots of wonderful creek creatures, and Room 7 took part in a planting day to help protect and promote the health of our awa for years to come. It's been wonderful for all of our students to make connections with our community and our whenua, and we're so glad to have had Tracey work with us.

A huge thank you to the parents and whānau who came along to support our learning in the great outdoors!



# The Great OVS Ag Day!

## Yes...it's time to start thinking about Ag Day!

Ag day animals must be born on or after the 1st of July. This year, in addition to the traditional lambs, calves, and goats, students will be able to raise and show chickens! For all the details, please visit our school Ag Day site.

If you'd like to order chickens through the school, you can do so here.

Chicken orders need to be in by the 25th of June.



Otaika Valley School Ag Day

- SAVE THE DATE -

23 October 2026

## Book Battle 2026

Congratulations to our teams that recently competed in the Book Battle. Students from across Whangarei were quizzed on their knowledge of different books, across different genres. Well done to Bree, Jake, Isla, and Neve who competed in the Year 5/6 competition, and Lily, Annabelle, Sophia, and Megan who made up the Y7 team.

The year 5/6 team came 14th place out of 42 teams, and the Y7 team came 14th out of 28 teams. A great effort!

A huge thank you to our parent helpers who transported and supervised our students! This was our first ever involvement and we learnt a lot. We are looking forward to next year...bigger and better!



## Kiorahi Comp at Portland School

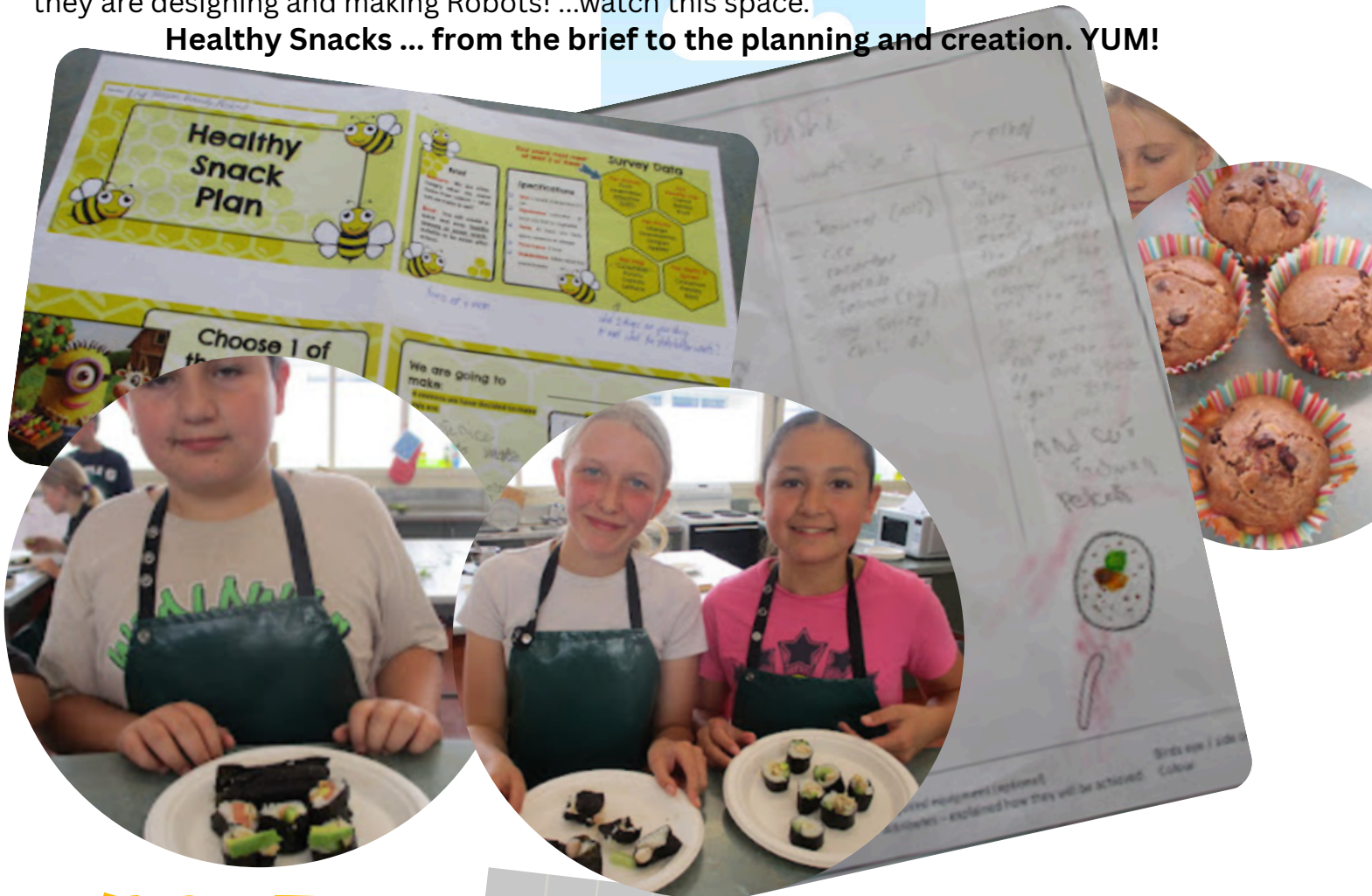
Last week 2 teams of our year 5-7 students went to compete in a Kiorahi Competition at Portland School. OVS has just learnt this super new attacking and defending game and had a ball playing against Portland. The games were tough with some wins and losses on both sides. The sportsmanship was spectacular and the day finished with ice blocks and a sausage sizzle...couldn't be any better!



## Room 7 Foodies! The final Food Tech creations by our budding chefs!

Our year 7 students have now finished their food tech and have moved onto Hard Material where they are designing and making Robots! ...watch this space.

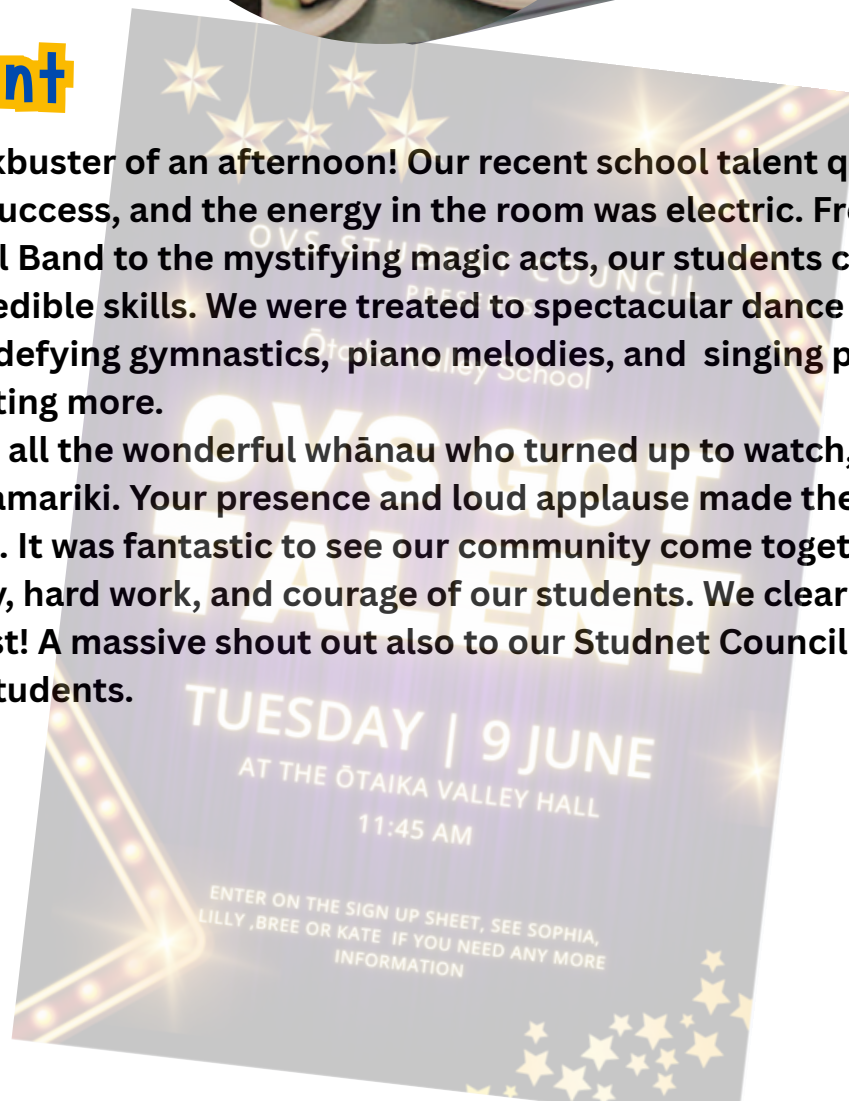
**Healthy Snacks ... from the brief to the planning and creation. YUM!**



## OVS Got Talent

What an absolute blockbuster of an afternoon! Our recent school talent quest, OVS Got Talent, was a massive success, and the energy in the room was electric. From the roaring beats of our Rock n Roll Band to the mystifying magic acts, our students completely blew us away with their incredible skills. We were treated to spectacular dance routines, hilarious skits, gravity-defying gymnastics, piano melodies, and singing performances that left everyone wanting more.

A massive thank you to all the wonderful whānau who turned up to watch, cheer, and support our talented tamariki. Your presence and loud applause made the fun-filled afternoon truly special. It was fantastic to see our community come together to celebrate the creativity, hard work, and courage of our students. We clearly have some future stars in our midst! A massive shout out also to our Student Council who organised the show for our OVS students.



# Jumping June - Heart Foundation

Yesterday, we held our Jumping June fundraiser in support of the Heart Foundation. Our school was donated skipping ropes for each child, and we had a blast jumping and skipping in our red clothing yesterday. Thank you so much for supporting our students and this important cause. Every donation makes a real difference. By supporting, you've helped the Heart Foundation continue their vital work in research, education, and improving heart health outcomes for all New Zealanders.



# OVS SCHOOL BAND

Is this you???

## \*\*EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST\*\*

We are exploring the possibility of starting an OVS School Band!

- Parents & Whanau... We'd love to hear from you if:
- You have musical skills and could help support the group, or
  - Your child already plays an instrument and may be interested in joining.

Please have a chat with Mr Sayer to register your interest.



Room 5&6 Fundraiser

 **flip!**

**FUNDRAISER**

**FRIDAY 12 JUNE | 5.30-7PM**

JOIN US AT FLIP FOR A FUN FILLED FUNDRAISER!

FUNDS RAISED FROM TICKET SALES WILL GO TOWARDS AN EPIC CAMP FOR STUDENTS IN ROOMS 5 & 6 AT ŌTAIKA VALLEY SCHOOL

SEE NATALIE OR JEN TO PURCHASE TICKETS

**\$22**

the PTA's next meeting will be held on **Monday 22nd June.**

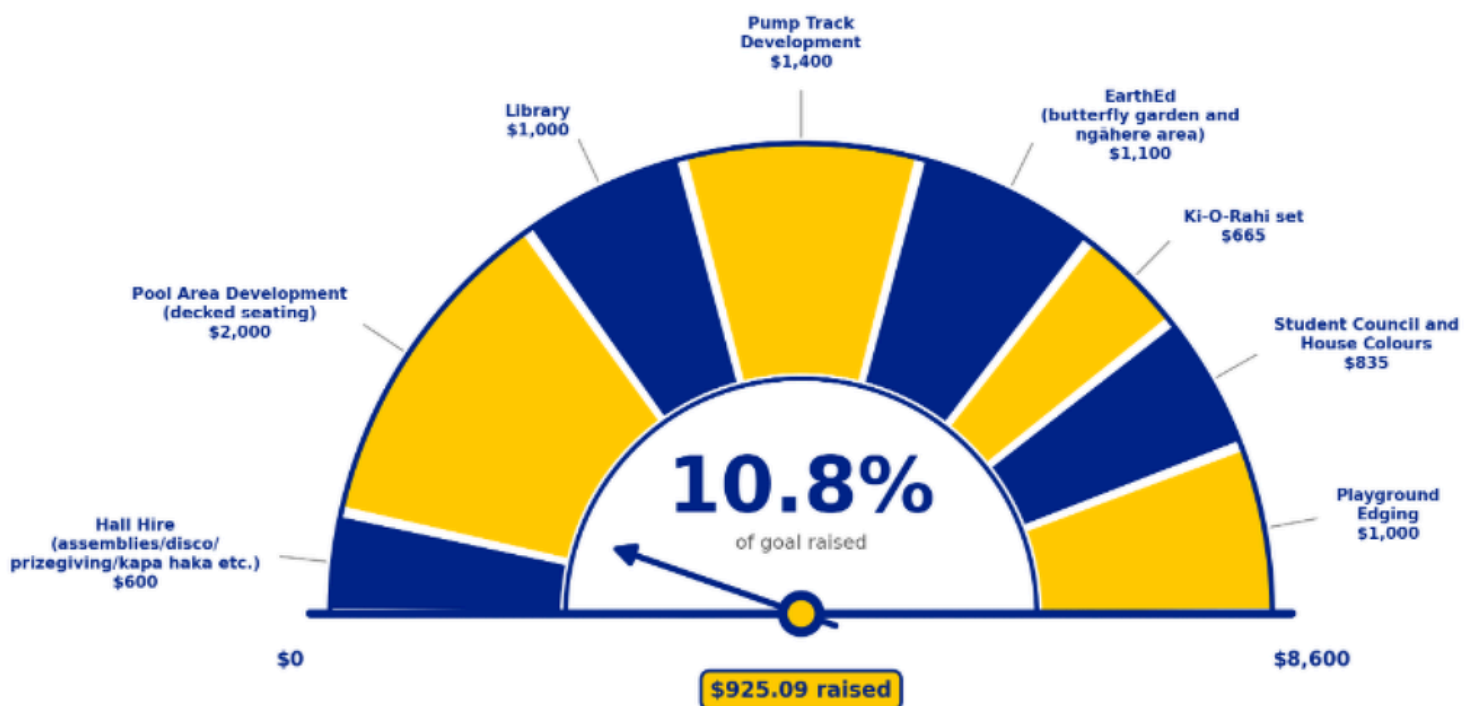
We recognise that times are tough for many families, and with other fundraising taking place within the school, we want to be mindful of the pressure this can create. This year, the PTA wants to focus on fundraising activities the kids love, such as the disco, ice block days, and Ag Day.

To do this, we need to explore other ways to raise funds for the school. One area we would love your help with is connecting with businesses or individuals who may be interested in sponsoring specific projects or items from the school's wish list. Sponsorship is tax deductible, and we can offer advertising in return.

If you have any ideas, contacts, or would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support of our school.

## PTA Fundraising Target

Help us reach our \$8,600 goal — every dollar counts!



## OVS Term Dates

Terms	Start	Finish
Term 1:	Wed, 4 Feb	Thurs, 2 April
Term 2:	Mon, 20 April	Fri, 3 July
Term 3:	Mon, 20 July	Fri, 25 Sept
term 4:	Mon, 12 Oct	Thurs, 17 Dec

- 15 May Pink Shirt Day
- 19-21 May - BikeReady sessions - yr 5-7
- 5 June - Y5/6 and Y7 Book Battle
- 17 June - OVS Kapahaka Fest
- 30 June - School Photos
- 1 July - OVS Matariki Celebration
- 2 July - Morningside Kapa Haka Festival
- 3 July - Reports go home

**If you need any help feel free to contact us.**



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